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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS
EXECUTIVE

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DIRECTOR

Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel
1 Wenonah Park Place, Salon B
Bay City, Michigan 48708

January 18, 2013
Meeting Minutes No. 287

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson Gil Guzman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Olga Hernández-Patino, Gil Guzman, Gilberto Guevara, Norma Huizar, Jesse Venegas, Raquel Castaneda-Lopez, Carlos Alvarado, George Fierro, Julio Morales, Noel Garcia, Jr., Melissa Fernandez, Carlos Sanchez

Excused Absence: David Acevedo, Maria Oxholm, Joann Chavez

Staff Present: Marylou Mason, Victoria Garcia-Martin

II. Introduction of Commissioners

Chairman Guzman asked new Commissioners to introduce themselves.

Commissioner Melissa Fernandez stated she is a Senior Supply Chain Consultant and a small business owner with a retail coffee house in Southwest Detroit.

Commissioner Carlos Sanchez stated he is the director for the Latino Center for Economic Development at Ferris State University.

Commissioner Noel Garcia, Jr, stated he is Lieutenant with the Lansing Police Department for the past 22 years. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Ferris State University, Lansing Campus, and Baker College of Owosso.

The remainder of the Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

III. Welcoming Remarks

Commissioner Gil Guevara welcomed the Commission to the Great Lakes Bay Area region which includes Bay City, Saginaw and Midland. He thanked the Commission for scheduling the retreat and meeting in Bay City.

IV. Approval of Absences:

MOTION: Commissioner Guevara motioned to approve the absences of Commissioners Maria Oxholm, David Acevedo, and Joann Chavez. Commissioner Fierro supported the motion. Motion carried.

V. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Hernandez-Patino motioned to approve the agenda of January 18, 2018. Commissioner Fierro supported the motion. Motion carried.

VI. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Alvarado motioned to approve the minutes of November 2, 2012. Commissioner Huizar supported the motion. Motion carried.

VII. Public Forum

Lee Gonzales, Dept. of Civil Rights: Mr. Lee Gonzales thanked the Commission for coming to Bay City. He stated he currently works for the MI Department of Civil Rights and is involved with the Anti-bullying initiative, Community Relations, Police and Community, Profiling after 911, Global Michigan, and the Cultural Ambassadors program. He stated in 2005 he worked with Marylou and Mexican Consul Antonio Meza on bi-partisan trade relations where a delegate of legislators traveled to Mexico City, Mexico and met with Mexican legislators. Discussions included trade relations and exports. This was a very successful trip. He would like to see another trip scheduled back to Mexico with a new delegation of legislators.

Danny Sosa, Boy Scouts of American: Mr. Sosa stated he works with the Boy Scouts of American on a partnership called Water & Woods Field Service Council. The Council covers areas as far north as Alpena, to Lansing and east to Port Huron. He stated he is responsible for forming new partnerships. He said scouting has expanded to much more than young boys in uniforms, going camping, and activities. He said their new initiative involves an exploring committee where they partner high school students with local businesses to give students a real world look into what they will be doing in the work place. In September, they will be having a large recruitment event at Delta College. High school students are invited to meeting with local employers and sign up for an explorer course. Throughout the year, one a month, they will work with an employer to gain real world work experience.

Commissioner Huizar inquired if this program was for boys only. Mr. Sosa said this program is for boys and girls.

VIII. Executive Reports

A. Chairperson's Report:

Chairman Guzman thanked Ms. Marisa Rivera who facilitated the annual Retreat that was held the day before. He stated she did a fantastic job with the leadership workshop and getting Commissioners focused, reenergized

and recommitted to the year's goals and objectives. He was very happy to see such high attendance at the retreat and Commission meeting.

He stated he enjoyed the role playing activity that entailed introducing yourself to others Commissioners. He felt this activity, as well as all activities the Commissioners participated in, will make this Commission stronger and better.

Commissioner Guevara stated the retreat was excellent and with all the activities everyone participated in, they had many opportunities to communicate and interact to see each other's skills.

Commissioner Alvarado stated he was excited to see new younger Commissioners with a lot of ideas and commitment.

B. Executive Director's Report:

Director Mason stated Commissioners have had the opportunity to review her report and she entertained any questions they may have.

Director Mason stated the director's report reflects all the activities that were held and accomplished since November 2012.

Commissioner Guevara inquired about the status of the letter that the Commission sent to the Secretary of State regarding the driver's license issue.

Ms. Mason said no response has been received. She stated she did call to schedule an appointment but due to the holidays they were not available. The Secretary of State's office will calling next week with dates of availability for a meeting.

Ms. Mason stated she would like to obtain an Attorney General's opinion on the driver's license issue. She state she will call Mr. Schuette to schedule a meeting with a few of the Commissioners to attend.

Commissioner Alvarado stated he felt that was an excellent idea. He also suggested a letter similar to the one sent to the Secretary of State should be send to the Attorney General preceding any meeting. He offered to send information on legal research and advocacy on this issue.

Ms. Mason stated she will be contacting the MI Department of Civil Rights, legislative liaison, to discuss the matter before any contact is made with the Attorney General's Office.

Commissioner Alvarado volunteered to assist the office with the letter and supporting documents.

Commissioner Venegas stated in Southwest Detroit he is working with a group of students that have requested deferred action. There are two students that just received their deferred action that took 6-8 weeks to obtain it. The remained of the group is still in process because of the lag of paperwork over the holidays. They were told that all applicants that came in before the elections will get an opportunity for an interview or provide additional evidence. Commissioner Venegas stated that if a meeting is granted with Secretary of State, he would be willing to reach out to some of the deferred action students to see if they can be in attendance.

Chairman Guzman agreed that would be a great idea, adding that when you put the people in front of those making decisions and to see who it is going to benefit, that it carries a little weight.

An Adhoc Committee was formed of comprised of Commissioner Alvarado and Commissioner Venegas.

MOTION: Commissioner Fierro moved to accept Chairman's and Executive Director's reports. Motion supported by Commission Morales. Motion carried.

IX. Committee Reports:

Chairman Guzman reported that Committees were discussed at the Retreat and Commissioners chose which committees they would like to work on. Commissioner Oxholm, who is absent, needs to decide which committee she would like to participate on.

Commissioner Garcia decided, after much thought, that he would like to remove his name from the Legislative and Civil Engagement committees he volunteered for. He will remain on the Education/Health Committee.

Committees are as follows:

Executive

Gil Guzman Vacant, Chair
Gil Guevara, Vice-Chair
Norma Huizar, Secretary
George Fierro, Trustee

Education/Health

Raquel Castaneda-Lopez, Chair
Norma Huizar
Julio Morales
Olga Hernandez-Patino
Noel Garcia

Economic Development

Carlos Sanchez, Chair
Gil Guevara
Carlos Alvarado
Jesse Venegas
Melissa Fernandez
JoAnn Chavez

Legislative and Civic Engagement
Carlos Alvarado, Chair
Raquel Castaneda-Lopez
George Fierro

- A. Economic Development/Agriculture: There was no report.
- B. Education/Health: There was no report.
- C. Legislative & Civic Engagement: There was no report.

X. Old Business:

- A. Executive Director Mason stated there are many annual state and national workshops and conferences she would like the Commission to approve in advance for attendance. Ms. Mason has attended many of these conferences and is on planning committee of many of these conferences. A Commissioner may attend, if funds are available. Ms. Mason read the draft list. Commissioners suggested the following additions: American GI Forum annual luncheon, Saginaw Chavez event, Great Lakes Hispanic Graduate Institute, West Michigan Hispanic Expo, Latino Youth Summit. Following is the draft list of conferences and workshops:

- ❖ MAFO – National Farmworker Planning Sessions & Annual Conference
- ❖ United State Hispanic Leadership Institute, Annual Conference and Student Summit
- ❖ National Council of La Raza, Annual Conference, Regional Meetings and ALMA Awards
- ❖ Institute of the Mexicans Abroad, Bi-Annual Meetings and Planning Meetings
- ❖ Sister Cities Annual Conference with Guadalajara, Jalisco
- ❖ National Bilingual Education Conference, Florida
- ❖ Cesar Chavez Statewide Events
- ❖ Homeland Security Workshops
- ❖ Dia de la Mujer Annual Conference
- ❖ ALSAME Monthly and Annual Meetings
- ❖ Women's Leadership Workshops & Conference
- ❖ National Education Association & American Federation of Teachers Annual Conference
- ❖ Capital Area United Way, Monthly Board meeting and Annual Conference
- ❖ Cristo Rey Community Center, Monthly Board Meetings

MOTION: Commissioner Fierro moved to allow staff and a Commissioner if funds are available, to attend state and national conferences and workshops during the year. Discussion – Commissioner Guevara inquired if expenses would be paid for by the Commission if a Commissioner wanted to attend a conference. Ms. Mason said yes Commissioners travel expenses would be covered providing there is money available in the budget. Commissioner Castaneda-Lopez requested the office provide all commissioners a copy of the list of conferences and workshops. The office will update the list and mail out. Commissioners should send any additional workshops or conferences to the office to add to the list. Commissioner Fierro also mentioned that when Commissioner

attends a conference they are expected to prepare and submit a report on the conference. Motion supported by Commissioner Garcia. Motion carried.

- B. Chairman Guzman asked the Office to prepare letters to Commissioners that were not reappointed to thank them for their service.

Executive Director Mason suggested that the Commission not only provide them with a letter but a nice plaque. She stated she will talk to the department to discuss the cost.

Chairman Guzman agreed that the idea of a plaque would be was a great idea.

- C. The 2013 meeting location/date/time schedule has been finalized, with the exception of the May 3rd location.

March 1, 9:00am, Detroit

May 3, time TBD, Holland or Grand Rapids

June 13, 12-5pm, Migrant camp visits, Ludington

June 14, 10am, Ludington City Hall

October 11, 10am, Adrian

October 11, 1-5pm, Adrian, Strategic Planning

XI. New Business:

- 1) Commissioner Guevara announced the following upcoming events: a) On January 24, 2013, Great Lakes Bay Region Hispanic Leadership Institute Graduation at Saginaw Valley State University at 5pm, cost is \$25; b) On March 28, 2013, 10th Annual Cesar E. Chavez Day Luncheon at Horizon Conf. Center, all proceeds go towards scholarship funds, cost is \$30; c) On March 30, 2013, Dia de la Mujer Latina, MSU Kellogg Center, 7a-5pm, cost is \$25

Commissioner Venegas stated there is MI Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Public Policy Breakfast. The event will be in March. Contact Commissioner Venegas for additional information.

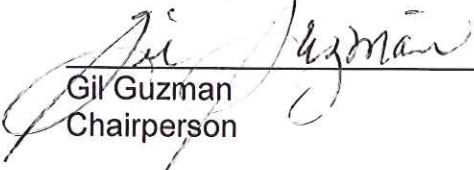
Commissioner Sanchez also mentioned the West Michigan Hispanic Chamber has an event on March 25. Contact Commissioner Sanchez for additional information.

- 2) Commissioner Hernandez-Patino suggested the Commission mail a welcome and introduction letter to the new and existing legislators, as we have done in the past. New and existing legislators need to know we are here to serve with them.

- 3) Commissioner Castaneda-Lopez suggested the Commission meet with the Hispanic legislators. Ms. Mason stated we have met with them in the past and also have held legislative receptions. Sponsorship is needed to cover the costs. Commissioner Castaneda-Lopez stated she was envisioning more of just a meeting with Commissioners and Hispanic/Latino legislators to request support on issues. Chairman Guzman stated this issue can be discussed further in committees work under the Legislative/Civic Engagement committee.
- 4) Next meeting, March 1, 2013 @ 9:00am, Detroit, Compass Performing Arts Center


Motion: Commissioner Fierro moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:09 a.m. Commissioner Alvarado supported the motion. Motion carried.

Prepared by Commission staff:



Gil Guzman
Chairperson

Date



Norma Huizar
Secretary
3/1/2013

Date